for a time successful and made threatening raids eastward. Eventually, however, Yung Cheng's forces inflicted defeats on them. The peace that was patched up left the Eleuths unsubdued, and their final reduction was not achieved until the next reign. Russian envoys continued to come to China, and in 1727 an additional treaty was signed, usually known by the name of Kiakhta, which further delimited the frontier between the two empires, regulated trade, and arranged for a kind of permanent semi-ecclesiastical, semi-diplomatic mission in Peking.

### CH'IEN LUNG (1736-1796)

Yung Cheng died in his fifties and was succeeded by a son, then in his twenty-fifth year, who is usually denominated by the title of his reign-period, Ch'ien Lung. Ch'ien Lung was to live until an extreme old age, and while he abdicated in 1796, in his eighty-fifth year, after he had ruled for six decades, the Chinese cycle, he continued to dominate the government until his death, in 1799. Like his grandfather, K'ang Hsi, he displayed marked ability. He was hard-working and energetic, and was fond of the chase and outdoor life—although he seems to have practiced this with more pomp and luxury than had K'ang Hsi. He travelled extensively through his domains, and, ambitious and diligent as a scholar, poet, painter, and calligrapher, he was a patron of arts and literature. In personal ability he appears to have been fully the equal of the two most famous monarchs of the Europe of his day, Catherine of Russia and Frederick of Prussia, and in the wealth and population of his realm he surpassed all other contemporary rulers. In his reign the Manchu regime reached the

pinnacle of its power and entered on its decline.

Under Ch'ien Lung the Chinese Empire was rounded out to its natural boundaries and attained the greatest extent in its history. First of all, the Eleuths (who were, it will be recalled, a branch of the Kalmuks, or Western Mongols) were finally eliminated. A dispute over the succession to the Eleuth throne gave Ch'ien Lung his opportunity. One of the worsted leaders, Amursana, sought refuge with Ch'ien Lung and was cordially received. In 1755 Amursana, aided by the Emperor's armies, was installed in Kuldja. He was not, however, allowed to rule in a fully independent fashion, for an imperial resident was placed in his capital to watch